

SENATOR SCHMIT: In my opinion, Senator Johnson, it is a requirement that we weigh, both the pros and cons of any transfer. In my opinion, I have been an outspoken advocate, I have told you from the outset that it is my desire to sell surplus Nebraska water. If, in fact, the overall benefit from the sale of water and the transfer, if you will, of water to Nebraska is more beneficial to the public than the loss of that amount of water...for example, let me give you an example. If it were possible for Nebraska to sell only 70,000 acre feet of water, an amount which is almost infinitesimally small, goes by Omaha every single day many times, if it were possible to do that for only \$100 an acre which is about 10 percent or less than the going price for water where they need it, we could fund the entire exemption necessary under 467, \$7 million. That's just one of the criterias we could use. There is a fear here, of course, that this language says it is too positive. I think it is time we be positive, Senator Vard Johnson, and say, yes, there may be benefits when we are looking under every rock and in every nook and cranny for funds, I think it is...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...ridiculous that we stand here with basements full of water, meadows under water, haystacks under water and say, oh, no, we've got to keep this water here. Now is the time to develop the methods whereby we utilize that water, store it, ship it, transfer it for the benefit of all Nebraskans. If that isn't a major criteria, then I don't know what would be.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Schmit, I appreciate your answering these questions and I've let you have a lot of time to do it only because it is a very important issue. I've not read the Sporhase decision and I am relying on your judgment. I'll tell you one thing that worries me though is this. In allowing for a diversion of Nebraska water to other states and giving that right, totally, to the Director of the Department of Water Resources, I have literally eliminated the potential of any legislative veto.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Is there a way we could get a legislative veto? You can answer that on your own time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, your light is on next so you can answer the question at that point. Proceed.